

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD POLAD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 025982

AAMO. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 7 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SAIGON MIL AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY TWO ROC DESTROYERS HAVE BEEN SHADOWING SVN TASK FORCE IN SPRATLYS FOR PAST WEEK, BUT NO INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED (UPI; WP). GVN MILITARY SOURCES SAY SVN FORCES TURNED BACK FROM ONE ISLAND TO AVOID CLASHES AFTER FINDING PHIL TROOPS THERE. PHILS MAINTAIN THAT ISLANDS THEY CLAIM ARE "RES NULLUS," NOT PART OF SPRATLYS. GVN MFA SPOKESMAN SAYS SVN AND PHILS "ARE FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND ANY DISPUTE SHOULD BE SOLVED CORDIALLY" (AP).
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SAIGON COMMAND SAYS US AGREES TO RESUPPLY SVN NAVY WITH VESSELS FROM GUAM TO REPLACE PATROL BOAT SUNK BY PRC IN PARACELS, "AND THREE OTHER GUNBOATS" (WP).

2. VC SPOKESMAN SAYS GVN AND VC AGREE TO START POW SWAP, WITH VC TO RELEASE 204 AND VC TO FREE 1200 MIL AND CIVIL PRISONERS WITHIN ONE WEEK (REUTER, SUN). NEW ACCORD CALLS FOR RELEASE OF OVER 4000 POWS IN THREE WEEKS (REUTER, SAIGON; WP). FATE OF POWS CAPTURED SINCE C-F REMAINS UNRESOLVED (CSM).

3. RLG AND PL SIGN AGREEMENT ON ROLE AND SHAPE OF JOINT POLICE FORCE THAT SOME HOPE WILL LEAD TO NEW GOVT. WITHIN A MONTH (WP; AP NYDN, BALTO. N-A 2/6). CLARITY (NYT) FROM VIENTIANE DESCRIBES CORDIAL SIGNING CEREMONY THAT ESTABLISHES JOINT POLICE FORCE OF 1000 FROM EACH SIDE FOR VIENTIANE AND 500 EACH FOR LUANG PRABANG, QUOTES RLG AND PL SPOKESMEN THAT SIGNING IS SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD COALITION GOVT. FORMATION. SOUVANNA, WHO WILL HEAD NEW GOVT., IS KNOWN TO WANT THE COALITION SET UP BY FEBRUARY 21, FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF LAOS C-F, BUT NO ONE WILLING TO PREDICT WHEN IT WILL BE OPERATING BECAUSE OF UNEXPECTED PAST DELAYS. WAR IN LAOS HAS DWINDLED TO SPORADIC AND ISOLATED INCIDENTS SINCE C-F. MIL AND POLICE NEUTRALIZATION FORCES WERE VITAL ISSUES TO PL WHO REMEMBER THAT ITS LEADERS WERE IMPRISONED DURING EARLIER COALITION-FORMING ATTEMPT A DOZEN YEARS AGO. VIENTIANE RESIDENTS SAY PL SOLDIERS, WHO UNTIL RECENTLY KEPT TO GARRISONS, NOW WALK STREETS "AS IF THEY BELONGED THERE". SETTling OF POLICE ISSUE CAME AS SURPRISE TO OFFICIAL VIENTIANE. PL HAD DEMANDED THAT ITS POLICE SHARE ALL WORK, INCLUDING TRAFFIC DIRECTION; RLG CONTENDED THAT PL POLICE WERE TO PROTECT PL OFFICIALS. KNOWLEDGEABLE DIPLOMATS SAY SOUVANNA INTERVENED IN DISPUTE AND RLG ACCEPTED PL DEMANDS. SAME DIPLOMATS SAY ONLY MAJOR STEP REMAINING BEFORE NEW GOVT. IS FORMED IS PL PRESENTATION OF NAMES IT PROPOSES FOR TOP COALITION POSITIONS.

4. AMEMBASSY PP ANNOUNCES THAT JOHN GUNTHER DEAN, UNCLASSIFIED

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DCM AT VIENTIANE, WILL BE NEW AMBASSADOR TO KHMER REPUBLIC, FILLING POSITION VACANT SINCE AMB. SWANK DEPARTED IN SEPTEMBER (UPI, NYDN; AP).

5. GKR EXPELS AFP CORRESPONDENT CAZAUX. ORDER, SIGNED BY GEN. FERNANDEZ, CITES FOUR ARTICLES DEEMED "DETRIMENTAL TO THE CAUSE OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC." CAZAUX WAS IN COUNTRY ONLY ONE WEEK FOLLOWING TOURS IN LAOS AND VIETNAM AND EARLIER TOUR IN CAMBODIA (WP; AFP, NYT).

6. PROMINENT BUDDHIST MONK IN PP BEGINS FAST TO PROTEST DEATH AND DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY WAR, SAYS

MAY NOT EAT FOR WEEK WHILE ASSOCIATES PRAY AND MEDITATE. MONK SAYS HIS GROUP IS NEUTRAL IN CAMBODIA'S POLITICAL STRUGGLE (WP).

7. FANK ISSUES FORMAL DENIAL OF NCNA RORT THAT 90,000 GKR SOLDIERS WIPED OUT LAST YEAR; MILITARY OBSERVERS ESTIMATE FANK LOSSES AT "UP TO" 15,000 KIA AND 40,000 WIA IN PAST YEAR. FANK SPOKESMAN SAYS 50 REBELS KIA IN FIGHTING, INVOLVING HEAVY AIR AND ARTILLERY STRIKES, SOUTH OF PP WHERE ENEMY SQUAD SLIPPED THROUGH DEFENSE LINE FOR SHELLING ATTACK (REUTER, PP).

CHINA

8. WP'S MATHEWS REPORTS FBI FOR PAST 2 YEARS HAS BEEN QUIETLY INTERROGATING SELECTED AMERICANS, AND THEIR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES, FROM AMONG HUNDREDS WHO HAVE RETURNED FROM VISITS TO PRC. INVESTIGATION HAS OFTEN FOCUSED ON AMERICANS OF CHINESE DESCENT AND THOSE WHO HAVE OPENLY EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR PRC. FBI SPOKESMAN SAID WEDNESDAY THAT BUREAU HAS RECEIVED 99 PERCENT COOPERATION FROM THOSE INTERVIEWED AND QUESTIONING BASED ON INFO ABOUT POSSIBLE THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY. BEVERLY FINCHER OF DARTMOUTH SAID TWO PERSONS IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES AS FBI AGENTS ASKED THAT SHE IDENTIFY FRIENDS SHE THOUGHT MIGHT BE PARTICULARLY CLOSE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO PRC; RESTAURANT OWNER VAN LUNG, WITH OUTSPOKEN PRO-PRC SYMPATHIES, REPORTS FBI QUESTIONED HIS SISTER ABOUT HIM. IN OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO INVESTIGATION IN ITS 1973 ANNUAL REPORT, FBI NOTES INCREASED AMERICAN TRAVEL TO CHINA, AND SAYS AGENCY MUST TAKE COGNIZANCE OF "FACT THAT SUCH TRAVELERS COULD COME TO THE ATTENTION OF PRC INTELLIGENCE." FBI SPOKESMAN DECLINES REVEAL NUMBER OF TRAVELERS TO PRC QUESTIONED OR IF ANY PRC THREATS TO AMERICAN SECURITY HAVE BEEN UNCOVERED. MATHEWS FOUND THAT SOME WHO VISITED PRC WERE SIMPLY ASKED TO DESCRIBE TRIPS; SOME WERE ASKED IF THEY HAD BEEN THREATENED BY PRC; OTHERS WERE ASKED IF THEY VISITED FRIENDS OR RELATIVES THERE. RE CASE OF FBI EFFORT TO QUESTION HARVARD RESEARCHER ROXANNE WITKE, WHO RECORDED INTERVIEWS WITH CHIANG CHING, FBI SPOKESMAN SAYS SUCH INTERVIEW JUSTIFIED IF "WE GOT INFORMATION THAT WHILE THESE PERSONS WERE IN CHINA, THEY WERE CONTACTED BY INTELLIGENCE AGENTS, OR THAT THEY WERE COMPROMISED" WHILE THERE.

9. DOD OFFICIALS SAY PEKING IS MOVING SLOWER THAN

EXPECTED AND WILL NOT HAVE OPERATIONAL ICBM CAPABLE

OF HITTING US UNTIL 1976 OR 1977; EARLIER ESTIMATES WERE 1975. COULD BE 1979 OR 1980 BEFORE CHINA CAN DEPLOY 10-25 MISSILES FOR STRIKING ANYWHERE IN US, OFFICIALS SAY (AP, CSM).

10. IN APPARENT RESPONSE TO US PLANS FOR NEW SUMMIT MEETING IN MOSCOW THIS YEAR, PRC LABELS "IMAGINARY" US-SOVIET DETENTE "SHEER HOAX WHICH HAS EXPLODED LIKE BUBBLES," AND CHARGES THAT US-SOVIET GLOBAL CONTENTION IS BECOMING "AGGRAVATED." WHILE ACCUSING BREZHNEV OF "FOLLIES AND SCANDALS," PRC COMMENTARY REFRAINS FROM ABUSING NIXON (WP).

JAPAN

11. TERRORISTS' SEIZURE OF JAPANESE EMBASSY IN KUWAIT UNCLASSIFIED

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AND THEIR DEMAND THAT GOJ RESCUE 4 GUERRILLAS STRANDED IN SINGAPORE ABOARD HIJACKED FERRY RECEIVE WIDE PRESS COVERAGE (UPI, NYDN; NYT'S DE ONIS; SUN; WP). REUTER SINGAPORE REPORTS JAL AIRLINER, ESPECIALLY PROVIDED BY GOJ TO FLY GUERRILLAS OUT, LANDED AT SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THURSDAY.

12. IN WAKE OF KYOWA DRUG CO. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANS TO PRODUCE AND MARKET ANTI-CANCER DRUG (MITOMYCIN-C) IN US IN CONJUNCTION WITH BRISTOL-MYERS, FDA SPOKESMAN SAYS CLAIMS OF DRUG'S EFFECTIVENESS CAN NEITHER BE AFFIRMED NOR DENIED; ADDS THAT DECISION EXPECTED SOON ON APPROVING IT FOR SALE (WP).

KOREA

13. IN REPLY TO PEKING'S PROTEST AGAINST SK-JAPAN PACT FOR OIL DEVELOPMENT IN E. CHINA SEA, ROKG OFFERS TO MEET WITH PRC CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES ON DISPUTED CONTINENTAL SHELF IN E. CHINA SEA (AP, NYDN).

14. ROKG MILITARY PROSECUTORS DEMAND 10-15 YEAR PRISON TERMS FOR 6 CLERGYMEN CHARGED WITH VIOLATING BAN ON PROPOSALS TO AMEND CONSTITUTION (WP).

MALAYSIA

15. FORNMINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAYS GOM WELCOMES PROPOSED NON-ALIGNED NATIONS' MEETING TO DISCUSS ENERGY CRISIS,

RAW MATERIAL PROBLEMS (AFP, WP).

DIEGO GARCIA

16. UK MINISTER OF STATE MAKES "WELCOME" ANNOUNCEMENT THAT US BASE WILL BE SET UP ON DIEGO GARCIA, AND THAT US HAS REQUESTED SUPPORT FACILITIES ON ISLAND FOR WARSHIPS AND AIRCRAFT (NYT).

AMBASSADORIAL NOMINATIONS
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17. WH ANNOUNCES THAT AMB. MARSHALL GREEN WILL SERVE ALSO AS ENVOY TO NAURU (AP, WP).

18. S-N'S O' LEARY REPORTS FULBRIGHT AND OTHER SFRC MEMBERS SHOWED INDICATIONS THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND OBSTRUCT GODLEY NOMINATION TO LEBANON. BUT SEN. DID PRESS AMB. FOR RATIONALE BEHIND HIS NOMINATION TO ME AMBASSADORSHIP AND SAID HE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS PALESTINIANS OBJECTED TO GODLEY'S LEBANON APPOINTMENT BECAUSE OF LAOS "COUNTER-INSURGENCY" BACKGROUND. GODLEY REPLIED THAT OPPOSITION WAS MAINLY IN LEFT-WING PALESTINIAN NEWSPAPERS.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

19. HEARST'S KINGSBURY SMITH (BALTO N-A, FEB. 6) IN PARIS REPORTS SECRET DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS, INVOLVING PRC, FRANCE, US, UK AND USSR, FOLLOWING PRC SEIZURE OF PARACELS. SAYS FIRST MOVE WAS VISIT BY PRC AMBASSADOR TO FRENCH FONOFF TO ASCERTAIN FRENCH POSITION IN RESPECT TO PRC CLAIM TO PARACELS, IMPLICATION BEING WHETHER FRANCE WANTED TO BE FRIENDS WITH PRC. (WHEN IT RULED INDOCHINA, REPEATEDLY GOF MAINTAINED THAT PARACELS BELONGED TO VN). FRANCE TOOK EVASIVE STAND, TELLING PRC ENVOY THAT IT DID NOT WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED. SMITH SAYS THIS POSITION COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY PLEASING TO EITHER PRC OR VN. VULNERABLE TO PEKING PRESSURE BECAUSE OF HONG KONG, UK DECIDED TO SIDE WITH PRC, ABANDONING NOT

ONLY ITS PREVIOUS CLAIM TO ISLANDS BUT PROMISING

IT WOULD NOT SUPPORT VN'S CLAIM. USSR DISCREETLY SOUNDED OUT US ATTITUDE TOWARD PRC SEIZURE OF ISLANDS AND FAILURE TO SETTLE SUCH DISPUTES BY PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS AS IMPLIED IN SINO-US AGREEMENT. INFORMED THAT US DID NOT INTEND TO INTERVENE, USSR PROCEEDED TO LEAN TOWARD VN SIDE AND INFORMED WASHINGTON THAT IF SAIGON REFERRED ISSUE TO UNSC, USSR WOULD ABSTAIN BUT NOT VETO. USSR PRESS WENT EVEN FURTHER IN VIRTUAL

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PUBLIC SUPPORT OF SVN'S CLAIM BY PUBLISHING ASIAN NEWS REPORTS DENOUNCING PRC MILITARY ACTION AS EXPANSIONIST AND THREAT TO OTHER ASIAN ALLIES.

20. S-N (FEB. 6) VIEWS PROMPT RELEASE BY PRC OF KOSH AS SIGNAL THAT DETENTE WITH PEKING IS IN DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION. SAYS PEKING WOULD WIN FURTHER GOODWILL IN US WITH QUICK RELEASE OF REMAINING SVN PERSONNEL CAPTURED IN PARACELS INCIDENT.

21. FROM HONG KONG, WP'S GREENWAY REPORTS ARTICLE IN LATEST ISSUE SHANGHAI RADICAL MAGAZINE, STUDY AND CRITICISM, DENOUNCING "JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL." ARTICLE, WHICH REPRINTED IN HONG KONG LEFT-WING NEWSPAPER, SAYS JONATHAN'S CRIME IS THAT "ALL HIS ELITIST, IDEALISTIC CLAP TRAP ABOUT FINDING A NOBLER PURPOSE FOR LIVING THROUGH THE PERFECTION OF FLIGHT IS SIMPLY AN ILLUSION DISSEMINATED BY THE BOURGEOISIE TO DISTRACT THE WORKING CLASS FROM ITS TRUE GOAL OF SOCIALIST REVOLUTION." ARTICLE RHETORICALLY ASKS: "HOW, IN A CLASS-RIDDEN SOCIETY SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES, CAN THE BOURGEOISIE AND THE LABORING PEOPLE HAVE A COMMON GOAL FOR LIVING?" ANSWERS: "THE PERFECTION OF WHICH JONATHAN SPEAKS IS SIMPLY A SIREN SONG TO PERSUADE WORKERS TO USE THEIR OWN BLOOD AND SWEAT TO BUILD THE PERFECT PARADISE FOR THE MONOPOLY BOURGEOISIE."

22. LAT'S SHANNON (FEB. 6) NOTES THAT USSR, PRC AND MAJOR OIL-PRODUCING NATIONS - SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AND LYBIA - KEPT THEIR "CLAM-TIGHT SILENCE" AT FEB. 5 WORLD FOOD AID MEETING AT UN, AND MADE NO OFFER AT ALL TO HELP MEET 440 MILLION DOL GOAL OF UN-SPONSORED WORLD FOOD PROGRAM. US, LARGEST DONOR, PLEDGED 140 MILLION IN FOOD, SHIPPING AND CASH. GREATEST INCREASE IN PLEDGES CAME FROM AUSTRALIA, WHICH TRIPLED ITS CONTRIBUTION TO 5.2 MILLION; JAPAN DOUBLED ITS COMMITMENT TO 6 MILLION.

23. THE SENATE REFUGEE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, AND THE 2 BILLION WE SPEND EACH YEAR ON MILITARY AID
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FOR INDOCHINA, PROMPTS NYT'S ANTHONY LEWIS TO REITERATE HIS ARGUMENT THAT US MILITARY AID, LIKE OUR DIRECT INTERVENTION, PREVENTS INDOCHINESE FROM REACHING THEIR OWN ACCOMMODATION. BY GIVING MILITARY AID WE ARE IMPOSING OUR MILITARY SOLUTION ON INDOCHINA

AS WE DID BEFORE 1965, WHEN WE WERE TOLD THAT WE HAD TO INTERVENE TO KEEP THE DOMINOES FROM FALLING, TO CONTAIN COMMUNIST CHINA. CHINA TAKES THE PARACELS AND WE SAY NOTHING. OUR INDOCHINA OBSESSION PROCEEDS ON ITS LUNATIC WAY, LONG AFTER ITS POLICY RATIONALIZATIONS HAVE DISAPPEARED.

24. NYT'S LELYVELD IN HONG KONG REPORTS EDITORIAL IN RED FLAG INVOKING MAO'S DICTUM THAT "WITHOUT DESTRUCTION THERE CAN BE NO CONSTRUCTION." NOTES THAT EDITORIAL WAS REPRINTED ON FRONT PAGES OF MAJOR PEKING NEWSPAPERS FEB. 5. DICTUM WAS ONE OF CLEAREST SIGNALS AT START OF THE GPCR THAT THE IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN THEN BEING LAUNCHED MIGHT TAKE A VIOLENT TURN. ITS REVIVAL NOW UNDERSCORES PROBABILITY THAT THE MOVEMENT NOW TAKING SHAPE WILL MOVE BEYOND DENUNCIATION OF CONFUCIUS AND LIN PIAO TO IDENTIFICATION OF OPPONENTS OF CAMPAIGN AND TO GRAPPLE WITH THEM IF MOVEMENT IS TO BE EFFECTIVE. OBSERVES THAT RED FLAG EDITORIAL ALSO WARNED AGAINST TENDENCIES TO "WORSHIP THINGS FOREIGN," A SUBSIDIARY THEME SUGGESTING THAT CHINA MAY BE RENOUNCING ITS CAUTIOUS FLIRTATION WITH POLITICAL LEADERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS FROM THE CAPITALIST WORLD IN FAVOR OF A MORE ASSERTIVE STANCE. NOTES THAT FEB. 7 PEOPLE'S DAILY ISSUED ANOTHER DIATRIBE AGAINST ANTONIONI WHICH INTRODUCES THEME OF DIVISION BETWEEN RICH AND POOR NATIONS.

25. DEBORAH NIKKEL, IN BOSTON, (CSM) REPORTS REISCHAUER COMMENTS BEFORE GATHERING SPONSORED BY WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL. REISCHAUER SEES JAPAN BECOMING LESS STEADY POLITICALLY. CLAIMS JAPAN'S DEMOCRATIC GOVT. IS ERODING, A MAJORITY FOR UPPER AND LOWER HOUSES IS THREATENED, AND POINTS OUT NEED FOR "NEW COALITION TO MAKE DIFFICULT DECISIONS THAT NEED TO BE MADE." INDICATES THAT BASIC PROBLEMS ARE THOSE ACCOMPANYING UNCLASSIFIED

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STUNNING ECONOMIC GROWTH. AND TO BEGIN SOLVING ITS PROBLEMS, JAPAN MUST END ITS "LOW POSTURE, NO INITIATIVE, REACTIVE POLICY" AND DEVELOP POLICIES THAT WILL MAKE THE NATION MORE INDEPENDENT. REISCHAUER

CONTENDS THAT ANY SOLUTION NEEDS AT ITS CORE A CLEAR TRILATERAL COMMUNITY OF INDUSTRIAL NATIONS (EUROPE, US, JAPAN) TO DEAL WITH "THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND COMMUNISTS." SAYS JAPAN FACES THREE REALITIES: IT IS THE MOST WORLD-DEPENDENT OF ANY LARGE COUNTRY AND MUST FIGHT AGAINST RESTRICTIVE POLICIES, IT CANNOT MILITARILY DEFEND ITS ECONOMIC INTERESTS, AND IT CANNOT STAND WITH THE US. TELLS ALSO OF INHIBITING FACTORS AGAINST EASY SHIFT TO NECESSARY

MODERN DIPLOMACY: JAPAN HAS DONE LITTLE THINKING
ABOUT INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN THE PAST, IT HAS
WELL-FOUNDED DOUBTS ABOUT GETTING ON AN EQUAL-FOOTING
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US, DIFFERING PHILOSOPHIES
PROHIBITING COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE ASIANS; AND
JAPAN IS AT DISADVANTAGE IN WORLD COMMUNICATION
BECAUSE OF DIFFERENT CULTURAL ASSUMPTIONS, STYLE
AND LANGUAGE. SEES AS SAVING GRACE FOR JAPAN FACT
THAT THE "WORLD HAS SHARED INTERESTS THAT FORCE
SHARED APPROACHES TO PROBLEMS." KISSINGER

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